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A picnic in protest

PEACE RIVER

'Empty' Thanksgiving event warns of Site C flooding

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Describing her group of picnickers on Thanksgiving Monday as a "small but very spirited bunch," Vancouver poet Rita Wong said there was one thing out of the ordinary at the gathering.

While sharing an autumnal feast is a centuries-old tradition, what was unusual about the picnic was the complete lack of food or drink at the Picnic for the Peace, an event held in opposition to BC Hydro's Site C dam flooding the Peace River.

"The lack of food and water at the Picnic for the Peace was to emphasize that flooding such a huge area of Class 1 agricultural land is a mistake," Wong told Metro. "In this era of global warming, it decreases our food security."

The dam would flood an estimated 10,000 hectares of land — more than 40 per cent of it classified as farmland.

As BC Hydro continues laying the groundwork for its $9-billion megaproject — which its website said "would be a source of clean, renewable and cost-effective electricity for more than 100 years" — the picnickers hoped to make a point about the damage to the food sources of landowners, farmers and First Nations pushed from their land.

"We need to be growing more food in B.C., not destroying the precious alluvial soil along the banks of the Peace River," Wong argued. "We are standing in solidarity with the farmers who will be made homeless by BC Hydro by this Christmas unless the government comes to its senses," as well as several Treaty 8 First Nations opposed to the dam.

BUOY POWER

University of Victoria is adding to its fleet of wave-measuring buoys — and placing B.C. at forefront of renewable energy research

metroNEWS

Sea lions lounge on a wave-measuring buoy near Ucluelet, B.C.

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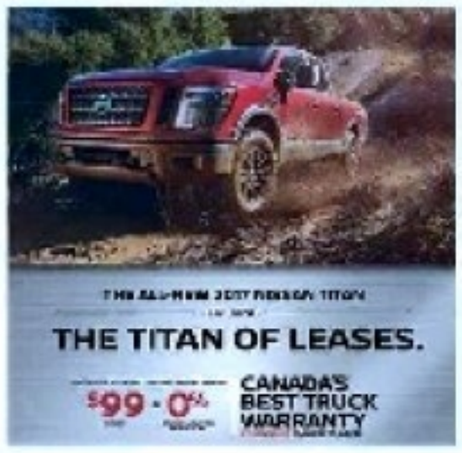

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In real time of need ... a slice of something to be thankful for

THANKSGIVING

Union Gospel Mission serves up 130-turkey feast for needy

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

The line-up for Union Gospel Mission's annual Thanksgiving feast stretched two blocks down one back alley, up Princess Street and round another full block on Hastings when Metro arrived Monday morning.

"The food's great," Jana Hall said excitedly, as she, her partner Shawn and seven-month-old daughter reached the front of the line and found seats at the heart of the bustling UGM hall as a live band performed by the entrance.

"We've been prepping all week for it," Jenna Woytiuk told Metro, describing days of kitchen work it took her and other kitchen staff to prepare 1,100 kg of turkey, 360 kg of potatoes and stuffing, and 260 litres of cranberry sauce.

In an interview, the 30-year-old said she "would not be here without" the charity, in particular The Sanctuary, UGM's refuge for Downtown Eastside women.

Monday, she said proudly, marked exactly 11 months sober.

"They took me when I was at my weakest point," she revealed, "and they reminded me that I'm beautiful inside and out. They've really given a lot to me, and pushed me to become the person I am today."

The UGM hopes its popular Thanksgiving event can help turn around a 2016 that hasn't offered much to be thankful for.

Jana Hall, left, enjoys Union Gospel Mission's Thanksgiving meal Monday with her partner Shawn and seven-year-old daughter. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

Union Gospel Mission said roughly 300 people helped prepare the annual Thanksgiving feast Monday, including these volunteers who served up at least 600 pumpkin pies. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

Spokesman Jeremy Hunka told Metro that the need this year perhaps has never been greater as more than 300 volunteers prepare to serve 3,000 meals at three locations (two in the Downtown Eastside and one in New Westminster) on Monday.

"As we head into this winter, we're facing what I would call a perfect storm," he said. "Homelessness is up ... We're also seeing overdoses skyrocketing, largely due to the fentanyl crisis. And we're in the middle of an affordability crisis where ... rents are surging."

The UGM's 75-bed shelter was full late last week, as it has been every single night since Aug. 29, and 25 people had to be turned away, Hunka said.

For president Bill Mollard, it's not the feast itself but the weeks after he loves most. In the days ahead, he expects to recognize "quite a few of the folks" from the Thanksgiving feast deciding to come to UGM for help with addictions, housing or employment.

> **"It's very heart-warming just to see everybody as a big family.... When I didn't have a family here, they really stepped in and made sure I felt at home.**
> Jenna Woytiuk

"Many suddenly take a very brave and courageous step," he said, despite addictions, broken families, poverty and "lost hope of ever having hope again."

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1- "White Mulberry Supplementation as Adjuvant Treatment of Obesity", Journal of Biological Regulators and Homeostatic Agents, Vol 28, no.1, 2014.
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A new park at Yukon Street and 17th Avenue officially opens Wednesday, and the Park Board is asking the public to help find a name. CITY OF VANCOUVER

What to name the Riley Park park

GREEN SPACE

Yukon and 17th Street site one of 22 unnamed

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Will a new Vancouver park be named after park-goers' favourite thing to do, like Dude Chilling in Mount Pleasant? Or will it honour someone who devoted their life to public service, like Emory Barnes or David Lam?

The Vancouver Park Board is asking for suggestions from the public on what to call a small new park in the Riley Park neighbourhood.

The park was a former residential lot that the city acquired in 2013, and has been designed around an existing bike route on Yukon Street.

The small park, which cost $600,000 to build, is located at Yukon Street and 17th Avenue, and will have a bike repair station located on site.

The Park Board is holding a public event to officially launch the new park on Wednesday from 8 to 11:30 a.m.

Park names, like Stanley Park or Queen Elizabeth Park, often commemorate the city's history, but currently 22 parks in Vancouver remain without an official name, says Park Board chair Sarah Kirby-Young.

Plateau Sport Park and Empire Fields are two examples of relatively new parks that have yet to be given formal names.

A parks naming committee will review the suggested names for the new park on Yukon Street and create a shortlist for Park Board commissioners to vote on.

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This buoy near Ucluelet collects data on wave height, direction and frequency and is one of four currently deployed along the west coast of Vancouver Island. UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA/CONTRIBUTED

Province dives even deeper into waves

TIDAL POWER

Buoyant B.C. is at forefront of renewable energy research

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

University of Victoria (UVic) researchers are buying another wave-measuring buoy using new provincial funding in an effort to turn ocean waves into clean and renewable energy.

Wave energy — electricity produced by the force of ocean waves — is not a reality yet but B.C. is a leader in the field, with one of the largest wave-measuring buoy fleets in the world, say researchers.

"In B.C. we're uniquely positioned to champion the development of wave-energy devices," said Brad Buckham, director of the research group West Coast Wave Initiative (WCWI) at UVic.

The group plans to use $150,000 of provincial funding, announced last week, to deploy a fifth buoy along Vancouver Island's north coast.

The buoys, made by BC company, AXYS Technologies, collect data on the height, direction, and frequency of waves in the area.

> **We're uniquely positioned to champion this.**
> Brad Buckham, UVic

"The knowledge provided by these measurement buoys is critical to our efforts to improve the design and performance of wave-energy conversion machines," said Buckham in a written statement.

Wave energy is not a cost-effective option for B.C. because the province already generates enough power for itself with its dams but B.C. may one day sell wave-generated electricity to other countries, said Minister of Energy and Mines Bill Bennett.

"Our funding … supports the internationally recognized wave-energy research taking place at the WCWI, and will help establish a marine power sector in B.C. that can serve growing global demand for clean-energy technology," he said in a written statement.

BC Hydro has also contributed $60,000 to UVic for wave-energy research so far.

CAMPAIGN

What's in a name? Readers' response

A week ago, Metro profiled prominent indigenous artist Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun and his call to rename B.C. Here's a sampling of your suggestions. Some were edited for length (sorry, Troy Hunter) and there was a sizable number who felt the name British Columbia was just fine, thank you very much.

Last Tuesday's front page.

Upper California
In order to avoid confusion with the U.S. State of California, it is proposed that our Province be renamed Upper California, as California was the historic name for the North West Coast of North America! The U.S. state could be colloquially referred to as Lower California so as to avoid confusion.
ROBERT HAINES

Beautiful Coast
Although this whole issue is ludicrous and unreal to me, and I fail to see that anyone can call the name of our province — a racist's name! I am writing to offer some ideas as to IF we had to rename the province ... how about we still call it B.C., But, change what the B and the C stand for — like Big Country? or Beautiful Coast?
FANTA ELIZABETH TATE

Boreal Cascadia
I suggest Boreal Cascadia as the new name of British Columbia. It has the advantage of having the same initials, thereby reducing the cost of changes in signage, letterheads, postal addresses, etc. It also has the advantages of describing a natural landscape, rather than something culturally divisive. IVANHOE

New West Lands Reserve
An appropriate name for what has become known as British Columbia is, "New West Lands Reserve", this is, because unceded land is reserved by the Royal Proclamation of 1763, the name is plural in reference to land as there is more than one First Nation in the Province, and that the Iroquois and Metis who guided the European fur traders to the area, originally described the area as the New West-Territories, just as Quebec was known as New France. TROY HUNTER

Aswestwego
I agree "British Columbia" is ugly, colonial, etc. and suggest instead "Aswestwego" because it's suggestively, seemingly indigenous and otherwise suggestively relatable. In keeping with Canadian tradition, it might continue to please no one. ALAN HARRIS

White Bear Land
White Bear Land is my choice since it is the only province with White Black Bears. RON STERRITT

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Political signs tiff hits top court

POLITICS

Elections BC defends rule that ads must be registered

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

If you're one of those British Columbians gearing up for next May's provincial election — be it through a T-shirt, bumper sticker or a hand-scrawled sign in your window — be careful.

You may be required to register with the government as an "advertiser" and have your name and address published online.

"Election advertising sponsors must be registered with the Chief Electoral Officer," Elections BC states on its website, "even if the election advertising they are conducting does not cost any money."

According to Elections BC, election advertising includes "signs, billboards, posters, mailing inserts, bumper stickers, branded clothing, branded objects, displays, exhibitions and public address announcements." However, a lawsuit launched by the B.C. Freedom of Information and Privacy Association (BC FIPA) that's headed to the Supreme Court on Tuesday could force the province to change course — or at least follow other provinces' example and only require people to register if they spend a certain amount of money.

"This absolute ban on unregistered expression is unconstitutional, as it applies to things like handwritten signs or electronic communications with a value of zero," BC FIPA said in a statement online about its long-running court battle. "Studies have shown people and groups avoid public comment, for fear of hefty fines and even jail time for inadvertently violating the law."

A Liberal supporter places a campaign sign on a dump truck during a campaign stop by Premier Christy Clark at local candidate Sukhminder Virk's campaign office in Surrey on May 13, 2013. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In a statement issued by BCCLA staff lawyer Laura Track on Monday — whose organization is an intervenor in the case — the agency's demand that citizens register if they want to simply sport posters or bumper stickers "silences the voices of people already marginalized within the political arena: those with little money, little political power, and views that challenge the status quo."

"One of the most basic means of personal political expression is the display of a poster or sign," the statement continued. "Those most likely to use these modest means of communication to express their political views are also the most likely to be deterred by the registration requirement, which forces them to declare their political activities to the government.

"This privacy-limiting requirement serves to stifle the political expression of those on the margins of society."

However, Elections BC notes that people don't have to register for simply the "transmission of personal or private communications between individuals," or "Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat posts, tweets, YouTube videos, and websites."

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IN BRIEF

Investigation after body found in homeless camp

Police are investigating after a body was found in a wooded area in Burnaby. The Integrated Homicide Investigations team says in a tweet that the 56-year-old man's body was found Sunday afternoon.

The agency identified the man as Kevin William Knuff but has not released his cause of death. It says the body was found in a homeless camp near North Road and Highway 1.

IHIT says the death is not related to a homicide where a woman was found dead at a business in Burnaby last week.

Police are looking for the woman's ex-husband in that case. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Probe into fatal diving accident in city's west

Police say a woman is dead after a diving accident near a park in West Vancouver.

The West Vancouver Police Department says crews were called to Whytecliff Park Sunday after a diver was brought to shore in medical distress. They say the woman signalled to her diving partners that she was in trouble, but investigators are still looking into the nature of the emergency.

First responders worked to resuscitate the 43-year-old woman, but police say she was pronounced dead at the scene. Police have not released the woman's name but say she is from Surrey. The BC Coroners Service has taken the woman's diving equipment and is investigating with police. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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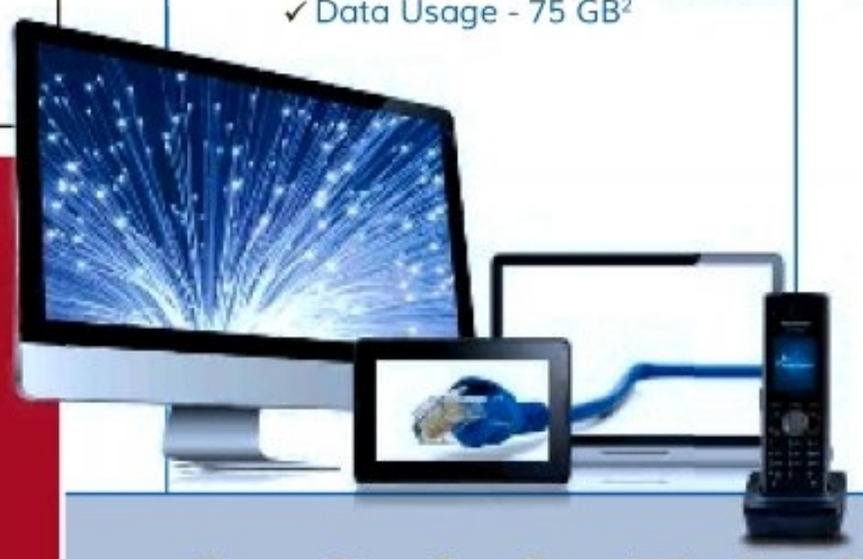

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Rescue crews get federal funding

DISASTER RESPONSE

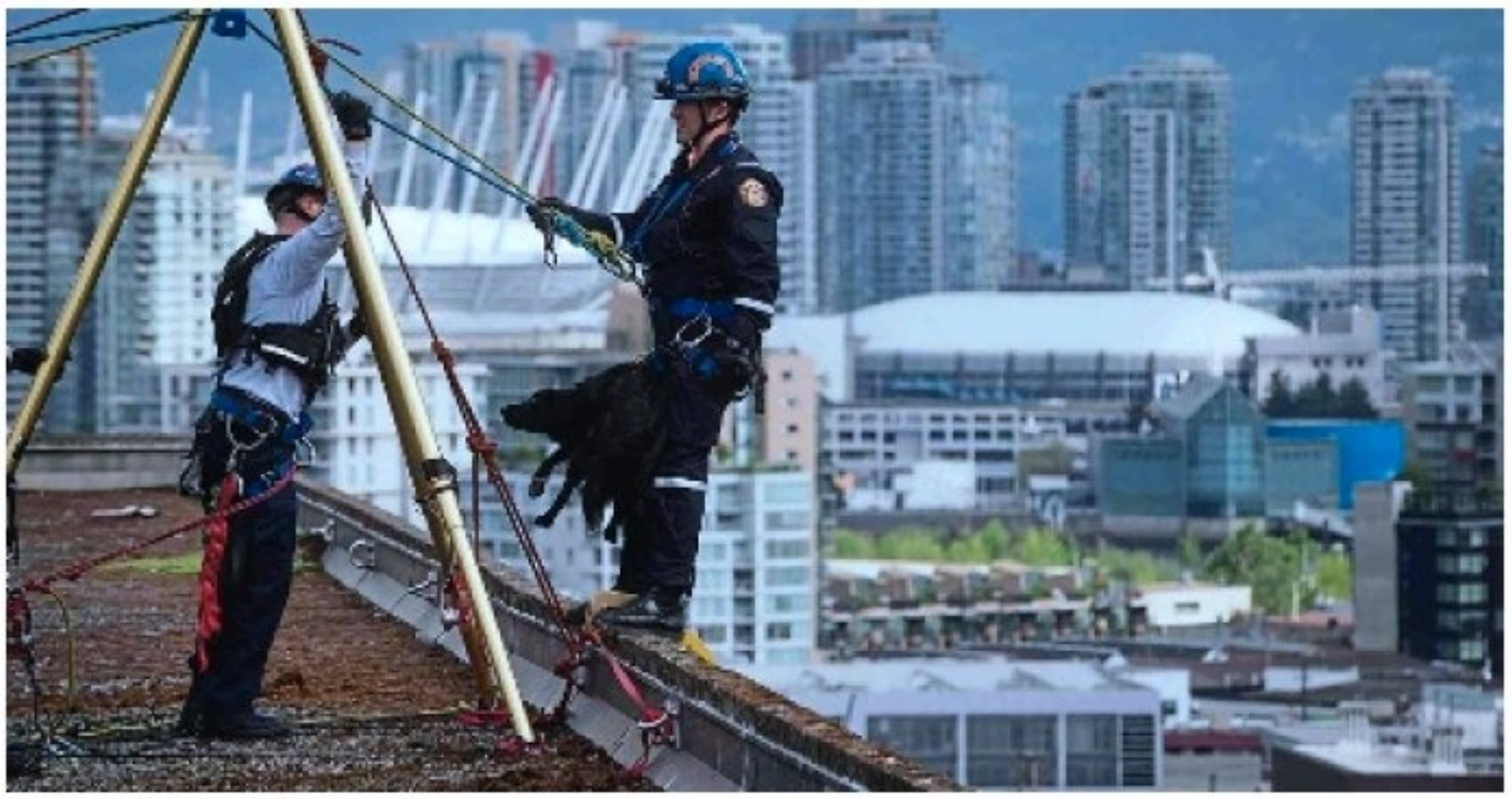
Heavy urban search team hit with cuts in 2012: Official

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver's Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) team is meeting with the federal government in Edmonton this coming weekend to discuss how $15.5 million over five years will be divided among the country's six HUSAR crews.

Of that funding pot, $3.1 million is available each year for equipment and infrastructure investments that will help teams jump into action if a natural disaster hits an urban centre.

Vancouver, home to HUSAR Canada Task Force One, will likely ask for transportation and communication equipment, said assistant chief of Vancouver Emergency Management, Joe Foster.



Vancouver firefighter Jeff Snider, a member of the city's Heavy Urban Search and Rescue team CANTF-1, prepares to rappel with his search-and-rescue dog Jessie during a training exercise at the city hall east annex building on May 2, 2015. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It's a little premature to say what we will be buying with it. But the first wave will be for transportation and communication. It takes vehicles to move the amount of equipment that we carry with us," he said.

The team rents a truck to carry its equipment to training sites but it's a work around that could leave crews stranded if a natural disaster hit the city.

"We rent a truck when we go on exercises which is fine for an exercise but it's certainly no good when you're supposed to be wheels up and moving in three hours."

HUSAR operates on a 75-25 funding model, with teams coming up with a quarter of the funds whenever it takes money from the federal government. The HUSAR program had its federal funding cut in 2012 and teams have had to make do with very little since then, said Foster.

"We do have some infrastructure needs because we've had no funding from the federal government since 2012."

Foster and the other three HUSAR teams in Toronto, Calgary and Manitoba will submit proposals on how they would use the new funds and likely receive a government response in November, he said.

Some of the $15.5 million will go toward setting up new HUSAR bases in Montreal and Halifax.

HUSAR teams are made up of firefighters, paramedics, engineers, and search dogs.

Unlike other emergency crews in the Lower Mainland such as North Shore Rescue and the Kitsilano Coast Guard, HUSAR is equipped to deal with structural collapse — something Vancouverites will experience if a powerful earthquake hits the region.

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X-Files may come back to city

TELEVISION

Show's creator lauds Vancouver as a favourite filming location

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver wants to believe in Chris Carter.

The creator of the long-running supernatural detective show the X-Files was in the city to receive an Industry Builder award from the Vancouver International Film Festival.

Carter received the award for sustainable practices on the set of the newest season of the show, which returned to the airwaves this year in a six-episode arc after a 14-year hiatus.

But the public appearance also gave Carter the chance to laud Vancouver as a top-notch destination for film and television production.

"I come back up here for the crew, for the locations, for the facilities, it's really the overall package," Carter told reporters. "You sacrifice nothing by coming to Vancouver, and you of course get a wonderful discount on the exchange on the dollar. It's got everything to recommend it."

Jacqueline Dupuis, executive producer for VIFF, said Carter had helped put Vancouver on the map as a place to shoot. While the local film industry languished at the start of this decade, a low Canadian dollar, competitive tax credits and experienced labour pool have now helped make the city one of the busiest film locations.

> **There's nothing for certain but I can tell you everyone's intention is to come back.**
> Chris Carter

The X-Files relocated to Los Angeles after shooting five seasons in Vancouver, a move that caused a considerable amount of local angst. But Carter returned to Vancouver to shoot the movie X-Files: I Want to Believe and the newest episodes of the show.

Carter said he is in "serious negotiations" to continue with another season of the X-Files.

"The plan is to come back to Vancouver," Carter said, adding that David Duchovny, who plays Fox Mulder, and Gillian Anderson, who plays Dana Scully, are also in negotiations.

"There's nothing for certain but I can tell you everyone's intention is to come back."

Carter said he was first drawn to Vancouver because of its nearby forests, which provided a spooky backdrop to many of the show's supernatural tales. The latest season was shot in summer, when the weather was a bit too nice for Carter.

"Usually we're here in the fall, winter and spring when the light is kind of low — and you get free atmosphere," he said. WITH FILES FROM MATT KIELTYKA

Chris Carter, creator of the television show The X-Files, speaks after receiving the Vancouver International Film Festival Industry Builder Award. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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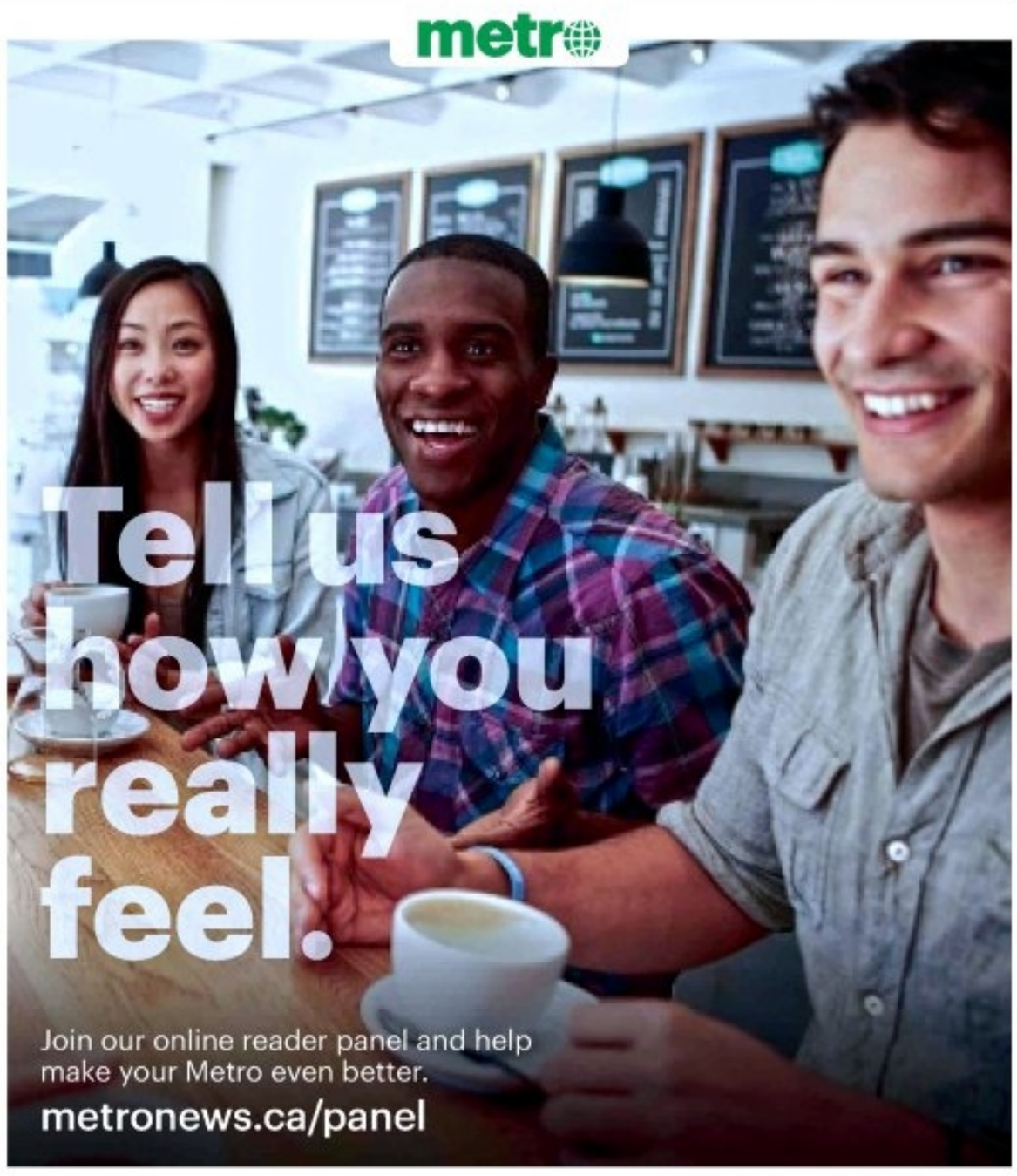

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Bell Let's Talk

The typo that changed her life

GOVERNMENT

Refugee faces deportation over misspelled first name

A typo could be costly, especially when it's in the name on the ID of a refugee claimant.

In a rare appeal case, Ottawa has overturned a decision to grant refugee status to a Nigerian woman, in part because of a misspelling of her name in a government birth document from Lagos. Gift Daniel, 32, now faces deportation from Canada at any time.

What was unusual with the government's appeal is that immigration officials did not challenge Daniel's claim that she was a victim of female genital mutilation and domestic abuse, but contested her credibility on the grounds that she is not who she claims to be.

A misspelling of her name on a government birth document has cost Gift Daniel her asylum in Canada. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Daniel, a hairstylist from Benin, arrived in Canada in February 2015 using a false Canadian passport under the name of Desiree Dobson and filed an asylum claim upon landing at Pearson International Airport. She was also in possession of a Social Insurance Number card, birth certificate and driver's licence under the same name, according to federal government officials.

Daniel claimed she was forced to undergo female circumcision in 2012 and was sold by her father a year later to an older man who sexually, physically and psychologically abused her before she fled Nigeria with the help of a smuggler. The refugee board confirmed there was documented evidence of genital mutilation.

Upon her arrival in Canada, Daniel said she declared her real identity to officials as "Gift Daniel" and provided a birth document and driver's licence issued by the Nigerian government as proof.

However, a border enforcement official quickly noticed her birth document spelled her name as "Gife" while her licence spelled it "Gift" — setting off questions by Canadian officials over her identity.

She was detained at the Rexdale immigration holding centre for three months until her release on May 13, 2015, when she was granted refugee status.

Despite concerns over Daniel's identity, refugee judge Shamshuddin Alidina, in granting her asylum, wrote the tribunal "believes, on a balance of probability, that the claimant has persuasively established her identity as Gift Daniel from Nigeria."

While Daniel has insisted she only became aware of the typo after it was spotted by the border official, the different spellings of her name in her identity documents triggered the government's challenge to the refugee appeal tribunal to overturn the asylum decision.

"Identity is clearly an important fact, so important that if not established, there is no need to further analyze the evidence and the claim must fail," the government said in its appeal. "Absent a properly established identity, a matter of utmost importance to refugee determination, the claimant cannot be considered to be a credible witness on the material aspects of her claim for refugee protection."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EQUALITY

Gregoire-Trudeau to open TSX

Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau will open the trading day at the Toronto Stock Exchange on Tuesday to mark International Day of the Girl.

Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau CP

She is collaborating with three charitable organizations — G(irls)20, Plan International Canada and FitSpirit — to show how important it is for girls to have equal opportunities to boys.

Farah Mohamed, CEO of G(irls)20, said it's also important for people to realize that investing time and resources into girls pays off. The organization frames women's and girl's equality differently from other organizations, using financial language. Mohamed says girls are a resource in which businesses and governments should invest. Mohamed says when women earn a salary, they tend to put most of the money they make back into the community, which raises the GDP. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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EDMONTON

High schoolers' app aims to stop bullying

Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

A team of high schoolers from Edmonton, Alta. has built a smartphone keyboard designed to stop cyber bullying before it even happens.

The Sentiment Keyboard is a downloadable keyboard for Android phones that will scan the text you type — whether it be an email, Facebook post or text — and determine whether it's negative or not.

"With media and stuff, people want others to like their stuff, they want other people to think they're funny," said Jacob Reckhard.

"I think that when given the choice, people will choose not to bully."

Reckhard created the keyboard along with fellow students Christopher West and Ibrahim Elmallah as part of the Ross and Verna Tate High School Internship Program, which gives high school kids a sneak peek at computing science.

While Reckhard said the app isn't perfect, teaching it the intricacies of online insults presented some interesting challenges.

"The main problem with it is it's getting a lot of false negatives," he said, or things that it doesn't think are offensive that actually are.

"It has a hard time with clichés and similes and metaphors," he said. "There's a pretty big gap between person and machine."

For example, if you tell someone, 'you sing like Kanye West,' the computer doesn't know how to interpret that without a nuanced understanding of pop culture.

"A computer just doesn't understand how a flower smells compares to an ape. It's an interesting problem," he said.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau greets newly-arrived Syrian refugees. THE CANADIAN PRESS

United States eyes private sponsor rules

REFUGEE CRISIS

Over a dozen nations asking about Canada's regulations

The United States appears to be working toward a system for privately sponsoring refugees, potentially making it the latest country to emulate the program Canada has deployed during the Syrian migration crisis.

A group that works with the government on resettling refugees says a pilot project is in the works. An assistant secretary of state reportedly referred to it at a public forum. Canada's immigration minister says he has heard about a pilot project, and one small-government advocate says he's been advising policy-makers on it.

David Bier of the libertarian Cato Institute said he used the experience of the northern neighbour while making the case to government officials that the private sector could play a bigger role in resettling refugees.

He said there was initial reticence when he first discussed it last year with government officials, but he said the White House became enthusiastic and the State Department got involved in the details.

"The fact that it was already in operation in Canada and had proven successful was invaluable to our advocacy," Bier said in an interview. "I have no doubt that this is going to happen (in the U.S.)."

At least 13 countries have made inquiries about emulating the program, said Canada's immigration minister John McCallum. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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'People will die' without aid

HAITI

Hurricane Matthew leaves trail of devastation

A woman and a child sit on buckets amid the ruins of their home destroyed by Hurricane Matthew, in Jeremie, Haiti, Monday, Oct. 10, 2016. DIEU NALIO CHERY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At a cramped police station serving as a makeshift clinic, Darline Derosier fastened IV drips to jail cell bars, wiped the brows of cholera patients and tended to the wounds of those injured when Hurricane Matthew slammed into Haiti's southwestern peninsula.

She was the only health worker helping about 40 patients Monday inside the station bereft of police as she waited for help to arrive in the hard-hit town of Marfranc nearly a week after the Category 4 storm struck Oct. 4.

Among the patients was an elderly woman lying unconscious on a jail cell floor with a leg bandaged in an old rag and a man with gashes around his neck, his eyes fluttering.

"People will die soon if we don't get some aid," an overwhelmed Derosier said.

The town is a 45-minute drive southwest from the coastal city of Jeremie, where food, medicine and fresh water are finally arriving but still slow to reach increasingly desperate communities.

"We haven't received anything from Jeremie," Derosier said.

The UN humanitarian agency in Geneva made an emergency appeal Monday for nearly $120 million in aid, saying about 750,000 people in southwest Haiti alone will need "life-saving assistance and protection" in the next three months. UN officials said earlier that at least 1.4 million people across the region need assistance and that 2.1 million overall have been affected by the hurricane. Some 175,000 people remain in shelters.

Electricity was still out, water and food were scarce, and officials said young men in villages along the road between the hard-hit cities of Les Cayes and Jeremie were building blockades of rocks and broken branches to halt relief convoys.

A convoy of food, water and medicine was attacked by gunmen in a remote valley where there had been a mudslide, said Frednel Kedler, co-ordinator for the Civil Protection Agency in the Grand-Anse Department, which includes Jeremie.

The National Civil Protection headquarters in Port-au-Prince raised the official nationwide death toll to 372, which included at least 198 deaths in Grand-Anse. But local officials have said the toll in Grand-Anse alone tops 500.

The UN also said the hurricane has increased the risk of a "renewed spike" in the number of cholera cases. A cholera outbreak since 2010 has already killed roughly 10,000 people and sickened more than 800,000.

Roosevelt Zamos of the Civil Protection Agency said there were 40 cases of cholera in Jeremie alone. He said eight people have died of cholera in Grand-Anse since the storm.

The open-air cholera treatment centre at Jeremie's main hospital had no running water Monday, and at least a dozen of the new patients were under 10.

Etienne Chimene tried her best to soothe her 13-month-old son, Cenelson, who was lying in a wooden bed with a hole cut in it and a bucket underneath.

"I feel like my baby is getting worse," she said as she stroked his head and he whimpered.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ELECTION

Ken Bone an Internet sensation

While supporters of GOP nominee Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton bicker following the second presidential debate, one participant is being greeted with universal approval: Kenneth Bone.

The mustachioed undecided voter from Illinois clad in a red sweater and khakis became an internet sensation Sunday night when he took part in the town hall-style forum by asking the candidates about energy policy.

In a Monday morning interview with St. Louis radio station KFNS, he explained that he was initially unaware of his newfound celebrity because participants in the forum weren't allowed to have smartphones. Bone says he received hundreds of Facebook friend requests and gained thousands of Twitter followers.

"I'm going as myself for Halloween. It will be the best costume ever," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenneth Bone TWITTER

ALEPPO

Medics plead for access to besieged Syrian region

Doctors Without Borders pleaded on Monday for access to treat the wounded in the rebel-held part of Syria's Aleppo as government forces pressed ahead with an offensive that has killed hundreds of people in recent weeks.

The international charity, also known by its French acronym MSF, said in a statement that medical workers in Aleppo are exhausted and that the overstretched facilities face an impending fuel shortage. MSF, which supports eight hospitals in Aleppo's besieged eastern quarters, says just 35 doctors remain, serving a population of 275,000.

The UN has warned that the Aleppo bombardment by Syrian and Russian warplanes could leave thousands more dead by the year's end.

"Russia and Syria must stop the indiscriminate bombing now and abide by the rules of war," said Pablo Marco, MSF's operations manager for the Middle East.

In another besieged area near the capital, Damascus, doctors reported up to two dozen cases of kidney failure that they said resulted from malnutrition. Muhammad Darwish, a local physician, said doctors confirmed renal failure in 12 people in the town of Madaya and were investigating another 12 cases.

Government forces have laid siege to Madaya, home to some 40,000 people, since late last year.

"We are only eating carbohydrates. We aren't receiving any vitamins or protein," said Darwish.

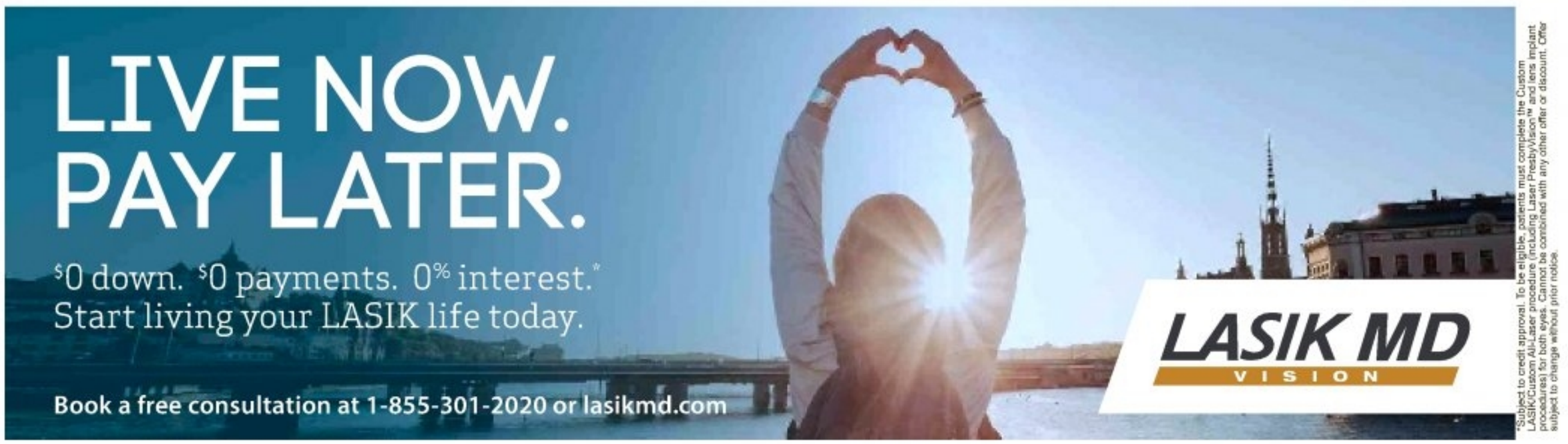
The government has prohibited the UN from delivering seeds or dialysis kits to the town, in what the opposition says is a strategy aimed at forcing the town to surrender.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Rail service resumes at Hoboken station

Rail service resumed Monday at a transit station in Hoboken, New Jersey, which was damaged when a train travelling more than twice the speed limit crashed, killing a woman on the platform and injuring more than 100 other people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A protesting student runs past a burning bus off campus outside the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa on Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Hell broke out' at university protest

SOUTH AFRICA

Police and students clash in fight for free education

One of South Africa's top universities descended into violence Monday, with police firing tear gas, rubber bullets and a water cannon at stone-throwing students who are locked in a national dispute with administrators and the government over demands for free education.

Stun grenades boomed and gunshots crackled as police cleared protesters at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, the most prominent site of a student movement that recently shut other universities and prompted official warnings that badly needed medics, engineers and other skilled workers might not be able to graduate this year.

"Hell broke out," said Jo Seoka, an Anglican bishop who described the pandemonium that erupted as students hurled rocks at security guards blocking the entrance to the Great Hall, prompting police vehicles to rumble forward. Seoka, who joined an earlier student march, said police had "militarized" the campus, and he criticized them for not wearing IDs on their uniforms that would make them accountable.

Education Minister Blade Nzimande appealed for dialogue and condemned the violence, saying the university's efforts to run its academic program were being "held at ransom by irresponsible and disrespectful striking students."

Large student protests in 2015 forced the government to freeze fee increases this year, but demonstrations started again a few weeks ago when the state recommended that universities increase fees by no more than eight per cent next year.

While the government also said it will cover 2017 fee increases for poor students despite funding challenges, protesters argue that the country must address economic inequities in the education system that date from the country's former system of white racist rule known as apartheid.

"We need to know that models (for free education) are going to be piloted and tested in 2017," followed by preliminary implementation in 2018, said Fasiha Hassan, a law student and protest leader at Wits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEPARATISM

Biggest crackdown in decades brought on by Kashmir unrest

Anxious to quell anti-India protests in Kashmir, Indian forces are carrying out the most severe crackdown in more than two decades against civilian protesters, arresting more than 8,000 this summer across the disputed Himalayan territory, police said Monday.

That includes 450 or so civilians being held, possibly for up to six months without trial, under a harsh security law criticized as a human-rights violation. India has said the separatist rebels — and civilians who help them — are undermining the country's territorial integrity and forcing authorities to keep the India-controlled portion of Kashmir under tight control.

"This is, so far, the biggest crackdown against miscreants," said a senior police officer who requested anonymity.

For weeks, Indian authorities have carried out nighttime raids, rolling curfews and stops at roadblocks, but have failed to stop the rebel attacks. On Monday, government forces were battling a group of suspected rebels on the outskirts of the region's main city of Srinagar. Scores of people gathered on nearby streets to chant anti-India slogans in a show of solidarity with the rebels. India has faced a separatist challenge in Kashmir since 1947, when India and neighbouring Pakistan gained independence and launched the first of two wars they would fight over their rival claims to the Muslim-majority region.

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Paul Di Benedetto, CEO of Drone Delivery Canada Inc., with their third prototype in their Ontario office. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Drone delivery coming

TECHNOLOGY

Canadian firm gearing up to provide first such services

Drone Delivery Canada began testing drones over a field at the University of Waterloo this week, joining an elite club of companies worldwide vying to drive drones from the prototype stage into commercial use.

"We're all in the same boat, we're all developing this technology, we're perfecting the platforms and once the legislation is there then everyone becomes operational," said Tony Di Benedetto, Drone Delivery Canada CEO.

While drone deliveries by air may seem like part of a distant future, those inside the industry say it's on the cusp of becoming a reality.

"It's not really far-fetched, it's not science fiction, it's getting closer to real applications," said Hugh Liu, a professor at University of Toronto, Institute for Aerospace Studies (UTIAS).

"How long for commercial drone deliveries? It's hard to say. In a year or two, we'll probably see some sort of delivery exercise, maybe not full-scale commercial usage, but a pilot project being done in Canada."

Under current regulations, unmanned drone deliveries cannot be made in Canada — permits allow air drones only within visual sight lines and in restricted areas — but Transport Canada is exploring changes to address the growing popularity and economic importance of drones and integrate them safely into Canadian airspace, according to spokesperson Natasha Gauthier.

Di Benedetto thinks commercial drone deliveries in Canada may be as close as 2017. He said retailers, municipalities and multinationals are interested in the technology and so are government agencies, including Canada Post, which is looking for ways to cut costs.

Using drones to make mail deliveries was listed as a possible option for the future in a discussion paper released in September: Canada Post in the Digital Age.

"We look at all innovations in the marketplace to see if they can assist in our role of serving all Canadians. At this time though, we have no plans to introduce drones," said Canada Post spokesman Jon Hamilton.

Drone Delivery Canada is testing different-sized drones for different uses. The eight-rotor HL-80 Heavy Lift prototype at their development lab in Vaughan measures 77 inches and carries a box with enough room to carry mail for a small neighbourhood — but not door-to-door.

It could potentially carry mail from one postal depot to another, where it could be processed and delivered by postal workers or picked up by residents.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **It's not really far-fetched, it's not science fiction, it's getting closer to real applications.** Hugh Liu

AWARD

Two U.S. economists share Nobel prize

Let insiders easily cash in stock options, as Enron did, and you risk seeing executives abandon a failing company. Encourage contractors to sacrifice quality to cut costs and you might cause problems like those that led the U.S. Justice Department to phase out privately run prisons.

Designing contracts is a tricky business. For their groundbreaking work on how to make contracts fairer and more effective, Oliver Hart of Harvard University and Bengt Holmstrom of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology won the 2016 Nobel prize for economics Monday. They will share the 8 million kronor ($930,000 US) award for their contributions to contract theory.

For decades, the two men have studied practical problems involving the countless kinds of contracts that underlie modern commerce:

How should companies pay their executives? What types of tasks should government agencies outsource to private contractors? How best to write an auto insurance policy to protect drivers from financial loss without lulling them into carelessness?

Hart, 68, is a London-born U.S. citizen who has taught at Harvard since 1993.

Holmstrom, 67, is an academic from Finland who formerly served on the board of the country's mobile phone company Nokia.

Economists who have long known the two men and their work offered warm praise Monday. "This is the Nobel Prize in economics at its best," said George Akerlof of Georgetown University, who won the prize in 2001.

"The character of both Bengt and Oliver shines through in their work and their character: They are true intellectuals and truly great people."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indians happy to share startup space

CO-WORKING

'Melting pot' workplaces find a market

Every weekend, the partiers flood into a New Delhi restaurant and dance club called Social, a three-story destination on the edge of Hauz Khas Village. After nightfall, the bar is busy and the dance floor is full. The lines regularly stretch out into the street. The dancing goes on until 1 a.m.

But just a few hours later, the watering hole will be clean, the tables will be cleared of silverware and plates and the nightclub will have been transformed into a cozy office where no one gets fired for drinking at work.

Everyone shares desks at Social: photographers, designers, journalists, software programmers. They bounce ideas off one another, hire one another and collaborate to expand their businesses. Everyone is either a freelancer or working for a small startup.

As India emerges as one of the biggest markets in the world for tech-based startups, workspaces are transforming from traditional and hierarchical to relaxed and bar-like.

"It's the millennial personality," says 29-year-old Dinsa Sachan, a freelance journalist who works out of Social. "People don't want to bow down to random bosses in their offices. They are seeking more meaningful work. So, I think co-working spaces are like a melting pot for individuals like these."

The first co-working offices began springing up in India about three years ago. Today, there are at least a dozen in New Delhi with similar numbers in Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad, where most Indian startups are based. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Indian entrepreneur works at Social, a bar cum cafe with a lax co-working space, in New Delhi. ALTAF QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COMMUNICATION

Why Facebook at work is now OK

You probably already use Facebook at work. Now, Facebook is creating a separate version aimed at helping you do actual work instead of catching up on baby photos and campaign chatter.

Facebook is launching a communications tool on Monday for businesses, non-profits and other organizations. Called Workplace, the platform is ad-free and not connected to users' existing Facebook accounts. Instead, businesses sign up as an organization and pay a monthly fee based on the number of users. It's free for non-profits and educational institutions.

Julien Codorniou, head of Workplace at Facebook, said in an interview that the tool's aim is to "connect everyone" in all sorts of workplaces — from desk-bound professionals to on-the-go employees who don't have email or a computer. Think baristas at a coffee shop, field workers for a disaster-aid charity, salespeople at a clothing store or people making electronics at a factory.

Besides group chats and video calls, Workplace has live video and a news feed, much like the regular Facebook. In a departure from Facebook, the background is grey, not blue. Users can build profiles and see updates from co-workers on their news feed.

As with the regular Facebook, the company will display posts that are more relevant based on its own formula. The idea is that because more than 1.7 billion people already know how to use Facebook, Workplace, which works much in the same way, will be easy to learn and use.

Organizations have used Workplace, previously called Facebook at Work, on an invite-only basis for the past 18 months. Facebook says more than 1,000 places use it, up from 450 six months ago. They include the non-profit Oxfam, the Royal Bank of Scotland, the soup maker Campbell's and the rental site Booking.com. The tool itself, though, has been in the works for much longer; it's based on an internal service that the company's own employees have been using for almost as long as Facebook has existed.

Facebook says the top five countries now using Workplace are India, Norway, the U.S., U.K. and France. Workplace is available worldwide. About 85 per cent Facebook's user base is outside of the U.S. and Canada. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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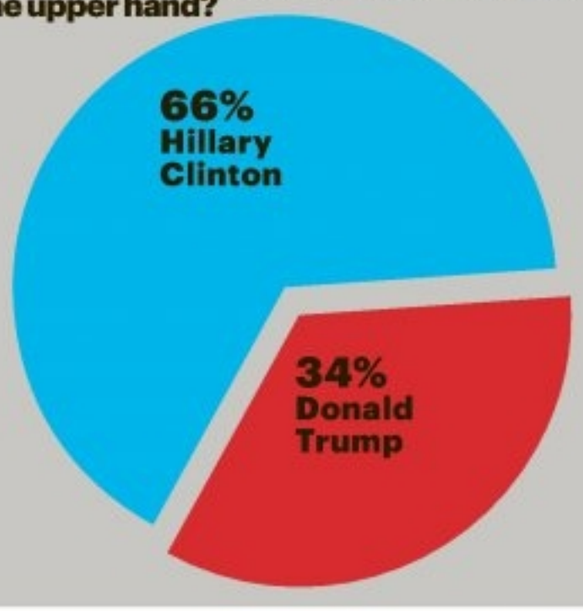
metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, October 11, 2016

METRO POLL

Clinton vs. Trump, Round 2 scorecard

In the red corner, Donald Trump, reeling after a week's worth of news bombshells that rocked his campaign. In the blue corner, Hillary Clinton, leading the polls and enjoying the show. Sunday night's debate, the second of three between the candidates, was a vicious affair. Last time, Metro readers deemed Clinton the winner by a 54-46 margin. Here's what you said this time.

1 Who came away from that nasty slugfest with the upper hand?



2 Did anything you heard change your mind?

88% No. "They both suck."
12% Yes. "Clinton's a lot more classy than I thought."

3 What were the best lines?

Electoral politics 101: When in doubt, rebrand

URBAN COMPASS

Petti Fong

The lesson learned from the American presidential debate is that it's never too late to try some rebranding and hope it sticks.

Donald Trump's attempt at rebranding is to convince everyone that what is said inside a bus with an entertainment reporter is the kind of talk that happens all the time inside locker rooms everywhere.

If that's true, it's a pivot that no one should accept. His supporters will undoubtedly nod in acknowledgment and agreement that of course, this is the way all men maliciously gossip about women when they're together. Anyone who believes that can bring in one of the great Trojan horses of all time past the gate and celebrate in the morning.

There, I've just done something in trivializing the debate that will either reinforce or discard Trump's rebranding. In Robin Herr's American business history class at the University of Southern Denmark in Copenhagen, students are learning this semester about the way American presidents are branded.

Ronald Reagan was a master at it with his "God Bless America" and allowing the positions staked by social/evangelical Christians to influence decisions made by the executive and the administration. Barack Obama upended the concept of branding by using social media and advancing the idea that his candidacy was beyond branding.

When it comes to the current candidates, Herr, an American and registered Democrat, will let her students decide who needs rebranding, Trump or Hillary Clinton.

In a country that Bernie Sanders thought could be steered toward democratic socialism, there are still Trump supporters.

"The Danes, if they could have voted, would have voted in Bernie Sanders. Denmark is a social welfare democracy and Trump is a very fearful prospect," she says. "Russia is not that far away when you look at a map and there is an intense worry."

Herr says given Denmark's geographical proximity to other countries, Danes are more fearful about immigration than they have been in the past. The one Trump supporter in her class backed the Republican candidate only because of his business success. The candidate's admission during Sunday night's debate that he didn't pay federal income tax after declaring a loss of more the $900 million won't be an easy thing for his supporters to accept, according to Herr.

"The whole thing is completely inconceivable to them. First, they don't understand how Trump could go bankrupt 4-6 times and simply move on. In Scandinavia, bankruptcy ruins one's life. So American-style bankruptcy is difficult to understand," she says.

As is Trump's ability to believe his brand is still valid and an apology and detestable attempt to bring Bill Clinton's accusers to a press conference, will allow him to rebrand himself as a champion of women. To dissect his actions any further only provides the appearance that there is a rationale for his behaviour.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

Women and taxpayers left to pay for Mounties' misdeeds

I had reason to call the RCMP last week, and a woman picked up the phone at the Surrey detachment.

It was Thursday, and I wondered what it was like for her to walk into that office the morning of a historic, landmark settlement over harassment, abuse, rape and discrimination of women within the Mounties' ranks.

What were her colleagues saying? Did she ever experience the kind of treatment that will net at least 1,000 current and former RCMP employees a share of the $100-million settlement? Or does she count herself lucky?

This settlement — announced last Thursday — is also for her. Both symbolically and, one hopes, in terms of real change with the organization, it is for any woman who would want to join the RCMP in the future, and every one of them who's ever joined.

And it raises many other questions: Why did it take so long? The two class-action lawsuits against the RCMP that led to the settlement were first filed in 2011. In 2013, Bob Paulson, the RCMP commissioner, announced a "Gender and Respect" action plan, after which more women continued to join those lawsuits.

Paulson became choked up as he announced the settlement. Are other male RCMP officers also emotionally torn by the abuse faced by their fellow officers? What is their role in fighting the "potent minority" that Paulson and two of the complainants, Janet Merlo and Linda Davidson, claim is responsible?

What about the male police officers who committed these crimes? Will they be held accountable? The settlement process will be confidential, even to the RCMP, which suggests nothing will happen to them. And even if they are reprimanded in some way: Will they change?

What of other police forces scattered across the country? What about the three police officers in Toronto currently facing charges for gang raping a fellow officer?

And what of us, the citizens who will ultimately pay for the machismo, the violence, the cruelty, and the sexism and misogyny displayed by men in the RCMP who we pay to keep our country safe?

We might support this settlement (I do with every cell), but that doesn't change the fact that it was first and foremost women and sexual minorities who paid the price — with their careers, mental health and sense of safety.

Secondly, it will be us, Canadian citizens, who pay cash for this suffering.

I'd love to be proved wrong, but just like the Canadian military report into sexual harassment and assault revealed a toxic workplace, but no list of culprits, I expect the same will be done here.

Criminal behaviour won't, in the end, be paid for by the criminals.

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metro LIFE

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Tuesday, October 11, 2016

Drake earned a record-breaking 13 American Music Awards nominations for his latest album, Views, shattering Michael's Jackson's mark of 11 nominations in a single year from 1984.

For those stretched to the limit

TREND

Earlobe reconstruction has spiked in popularity

Perry King
For Metro Canada

Bradford Wagner, 29, received earlobe reconstruction surgery last year after first expanding his lobes at 18. ABOVE PHOTO BY PERRY KING, PHOTO ON LEFT PROVIDED BY BRADFORD WAGNER

Bradford Wagner was a huge metalhead in his teens, and he had the one-and-a-half inch earlobes to show for it. Punched out and expanded to fit spacers when he was 18, his lobes were part of Wagner's immersion into the underground music scene.

"A lot of my peers then had them, and I liked the look of them and, to be frank, I wanted to fit in." But as he neared the end of his 20s, fading from punk and working as a sous chef in Toronto's financial district, Wagner began re-evaluating those dangling lobes.

"It was a new phase in my life and I needed a change," said Wagner, now 29.

Wagner is not alone — many young people who have stretched their lobes for various reasons are considering repairing them. Dr. Kristina Zachary, a Calgary-based plastic surgeon who specializes in head and neck procedures, has repaired about 50 pairs this year alone — about four procedures a month on average. Though procedures have been done in the past to reset torn and stretched ears, the surgery has become a "generational phenomenon," she says.

"They have grown tired of the stretched earlobes, or they're entering into a field of work where it's a little more conservative, and they don't want to have a non-conservative appearance," said Dr. Zakhary, who has been practising for 12 years.

"Typically they're young; there's an even proportion of males to females," she added. "Usually, they're between age of 18 to, I would say, 40, and they're usually people who have had their earlobes stretched with those circular earrings and have changed their minds about (them) because of different factors."

When Wagner was committed to repairing his ears, he did his research and eventually worked with Dr. Marc DuPere at the Visage Clinic in Toronto to have it done.

Dr. DuPere, who performs the surgery 50 to 70 times a year, has seen similar increasing interest in the procedure. "Many did it when (they were) younger and now see some obstruction to a better job in a highly competitive market, along with the 'expected' look that someone should have in a more conservative professional environment," wrote Dr. DuPere in an e-mail.

Wagner wasn't worried about his appearance at all, but felt the move was necessary for his personal growth.

"I consider myself a new person, almost," he said.

NEED TO KNOW

Lending their ears

Earlobe reconstruction is seen as non-invasive and relatively quick compared to other cosmetic procedures — about half an hour per ear. The surgery is done under local anesthesia and the lobes are closed with sutures and stitches are put in place. There are minor complications, including swelling and pain after the anesthesia subsides — patients are given a few Advil or Tylenol at most. Most patients return to school/work the next day. All the ears look good as new after the scarring has subsided.

30
Minutes of work per ear, on average.

7-10
The number of days the stitches are in.

6-8
Number of weeks to go without earrings

PERRY KING/FOR METRO CANADA

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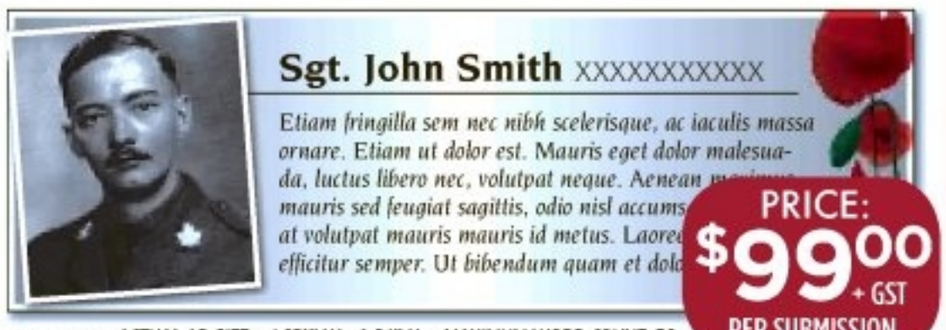

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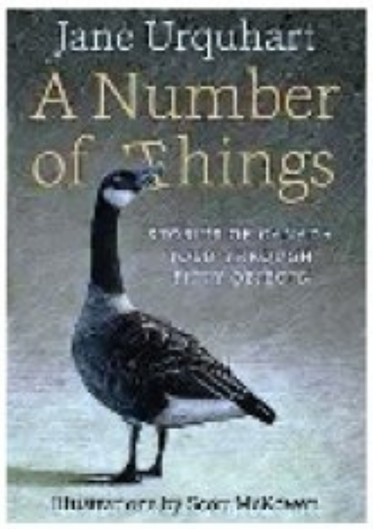
BOOK EXCERPT **A NUMBER OF THINGS, BY JANE URQUHART**

The cowcatcher



In her new book, **A Number of Things: Stories of Canada Told Through Fifty Objects**, author Jane Urquhart explores 50 unexpected artifacts that explore the history of the nation. On sale today, this is her gift to Canada as we prepare to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

Lady Susan Agnes Macdonald, second wife of our much-praised and frequently criticized first prime minister, turns out to have been an unusual woman, especially if one considers the times, and the places, that influenced her life.

Daughter of a Jamaican plantation owner, she would have witnessed not only the daily brutality and moral corruption of owning slaves, but also some of Jamaica's most bloody and ultimately successful uprisings.

For obvious reasons, her father's fortunes did not fare well in Jamaica after the 1838 emancipation of the slaves, and when he died in 1850, the family moved to Ontario, where Hewitt, one of her two brothers, became secretary to a man called John A. Macdonald, the attorney general of Canada West (as it was named at the time).

Living in Ontario did not prevent Agnes from making frequent trips to the mother country, and thus it was that in 1866 she happened to be in England for the London Conference, during which the British North America Act was hammered out in preparation for Canadian Confederation.

John A., allegedly a great wit, announced that he had become so fond of the notion of unity he felt he should try it out once again himself, and the two were married and even managed a short honeymoon in Oxford while the conference grumbled on around them.

The BNA Act was duly draft and signed, and when the Dominion of Canada was born on July 1, 1867, John A. became Sir John A. and his wife became Lady Macdonald.

Years later, in 1886, as first lady to the first prime minister, Agnes would accompany her husband on his only journey to the West Coast — one that would be taken on the almost new transcontinental train, the last spike having been driven into the earth of British Columbia in 1885.

Sir John was in his second incarnation at the time: the Pacific Scandal, in which the construction of the railway was politically encouraged by massive campaign donations from promoters of same, had thrown him out of office for a while in the 1870s.

His problems with alcohol had not abated to any noticeable degree, and if there was a bar car, he was likely spending a considerable amount of time in it.

Travel in previous centuries astonishes, especially if one considers the amount of time spent moving over land or across oceans without showers or sleeping pills.

This added to the very real dangers along the route (weather, mechanical failure, accidents, disease), arguably made any travel extreme travel.

In spite of this, Lady Agnes apparently wanted adventures even more thrilling than those already provided, and when the train eventually reached the Rocky Mountains, she announced to a thunderstruck superintendent that she would be travelling on the engine's cowcatcher for the final six hundred miles of the journey to avail herself of a better view.

She was able to persuade her husband to join her for only thirty miles, but from the sounds of her diary, his absence in no way diminished her enjoyment. Perhaps her enthusiasm encouraged her husband to think seriously about preserving such extraordinarily beautiful landscapes, as shortly aft the couple returned from the west, Sir John established Yoho and Glacier national parks, two of our first mountain parks.

Lady Agnes never forgot the mountains. And the mountains would remember her as well.

There is a small body of water near the top of Mount St. Piran called Lake Agnes, and Mount Lady Macdonald looms over Canmore.

And her excitement en route is touchingly expressed in By Car and Cowcatcher, her published account of the experience. Reading it, one feels one is sitting right beside her on the biscuit box that the engineer had affixed to the triangular iron platform as a provisional chair.

"There is glory of brightness and beauty everywhere," she enthuses, "and I laugh aloud on the cowcatcher, just because it is all so delightful."

EXCERPT FROM: A NUMBER OF THINGS: STORIES OF CANADA TOLD THROUGH FIFTY OBJECTS BY JANE URQUHART
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Would you pay for a date planner?

TREND

Kate McNamara has made a business out of fun itineraries

Megan Haynes
For Metro Canada

Ottawa-based Kate McNamara has been planning dates for friends and family for years.

And with so many people in her life having recently gotten married, she often dishes out the dates as wedding presents. For one couple, McNamara started the day off with instructions (and supplies) to make crafts at home, followed by lunch over a board game at a new restaurant, then on to antiquing before finishing off the day with a homemade Italian dinner. For another, she sent them skating in a park, followed by a couple's pedicure, capped off with dinner at a fancy restaurant.

She's turned her knowledge of the city and all that it has to offer into a growing business, A Date by Kate. She chooses the activities and restaurants based on daters' budgets and surprises them with a secret agenda just before their big night out. She tailors the dates based on their personalities, and encourages them to try new things, like couples' pedicures or sending a shy pair to a sex shop.

Over the last three years, McNamara has planned over 75 dates as a hobby.

But at this year's Women's Show in Ottawa on Oct. 22, the 26-year-old event planner is growing her business. Her plan is to act like a dating concierge: she'll plan mystery dates for clients based on their preferences and budget. It could be anything, from learning to make a cheesecake at a local bakery to a behind-the-scenes tour of a brew house.

She'll coordinate restaurant reservations, day-of setup (for activities like picnics in the park) and even book overnight accommodations. Her clients won't know what she's planning until they receive their instructions ahead of their dates. (She's also planning more "mass" options, like a bucket of dating ideas that aren't customized, complete with discounts and coupons, which clients can do at their own pace.)

It's not cheap: her concierge services start in the low $200s, plus the cost of the date, but she says these personalized custom dates are good gift ideas for newlyweds and recent parents, or even those just looking for a bit more adventure.

The idea, she says, is people are busy and often don't have time to plan extravagant nights on the town, but many millennials are looking for unique experiences. She's catering to that niche.

Hers is not the only business that's popped up in recent months to cater to people looking for a bit of mystery mixed with adventure: earlier this year, U.S. travel company Pack Up + Go launched, sending people on a surprise trip. People enter their budget and how far they wanted to travel (in the city, by car, by plane), and the San Francisco-based company handles the rest. Clients are told generally what to pack (beachwear, hiking shoes, etc.) but the destination is kept a secret until departure.

Millennials are increasingly hunting for these types of unique and unusual experiences, says Carol Wong-Li, a senior analyst at research firm Mintel.

In a recent survey, the young adult cohort was the only one to list entertainment as a priority for how to spend discretionary funds, she says.

And it's not surprising: given most of millennials' lives are spent on social media, there's an inherent desire for Gen Y to look for these cool and unique experiences as a means of social currency, she adds.

Shannon Simmons, a financial planner and founder of New School of Finances who deals largely with millennial clients, says while on the surface paying someone else to plan dates or vacations might seem frivolous, for millennials it's par for the course.

Economically, with lower and stagnated wages and a loss of job security, millennials feel they're worse off than their older counterparts, she says.

"I think we got handed a little bit of a crappy deal with regards to the job market," she says.

"So if we have some discretionary money, I think we want to spend in places that make us feel good and are fun.

"There's nothing wrong with that."

$ EXTRA FUNDS

Priorities
According to Carol Wong-Li, a senior analyst at research firm Mintel, millennials are on the hunt for unique experiences. And in a recent survey, millennials were the only age cohort to list entertainment as a priority for how to spend discretionary funds.

Ottawa-based Kate McNamara plans mystery dates for her clients based on preferences and budget. COURTESY EMILY BEEKMANS

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"It's something I'm not going to forget": Rangers second baseman Rougned Odor whose error let the Blue Jays score Sunday's ALDS-clinching run

'We're here to win'

NHL

Canucks hope key moves and good health lead to playoffs

There won't be any mixed messages coming from the Vancouver Canucks this season.

After spending a couple of years trying to nurture young talent while remaining competitive, the club has one goal in 2016-17 — a return to the playoffs.

Getting there, however, could prove to be a big challenge.

"There's always a lot of 'ifs' when you're trying to develop guys and maybe rebuild a little bit or retool," said Canucks captain Henrik Sedin. "You need guys to develop and that's not always easy. You look at guys early on and you think: 'He's going to be a No. 1 centre or a first-line player or a second-line player,' but it's not always going to be that way.

"There are a lot of 'ifs.' But looking at this year and how much they want it, it gives us confidence that it's going to happen."

The "they" Sedin is referencing is a core of youngsters who got what the franchise hopes is valuable experience during a lost 2015-16 campaign that saw Vancouver miss the postseason for the second time in three years.

The Canucks compiled an abysmal 31-38-13 record, good for 28th overall and their lowest point total (75) since the late 1990s, but among the very few positives was the emergence of Sven Baertschi and Bo Horvat as legitimate point producers up front, while defenceman Ben Hutton surprised in his rookie season.

But with Henrik Sedin and his brother Daniel now 36, the Canucks knew their window to win with the superstar twins was closing — some observers argue it has already realistically been slammed shut — and made a series of moves to bolster the club this summer.

General manager Jim Benning acquired bruising defenceman Erik Gudbranson in a trade with Florida before dipping into the free-agent market and signing forward Loui Eriksson to a six-year, $36-million US deal. The Canucks are also hopeful that Brandon Sutter's injury woes are behind him after the centre played just 20 games in his first season for Vancouver, giving the club three significant pieces it didn't have last season.

"Bringing Loui is going to help us a lot, and a healthy Sutter as well," said Henrik Sedin. "You get guys playing where they feel comfortable. That's key if you want to succeed."

Eriksson, who played on a line with the Sedins for Sweden at the World Cup of Hockey and looks set to do the same with the Canucks, said he had a good feeling about Vancouver's direction before agreeing to terms on July 1.

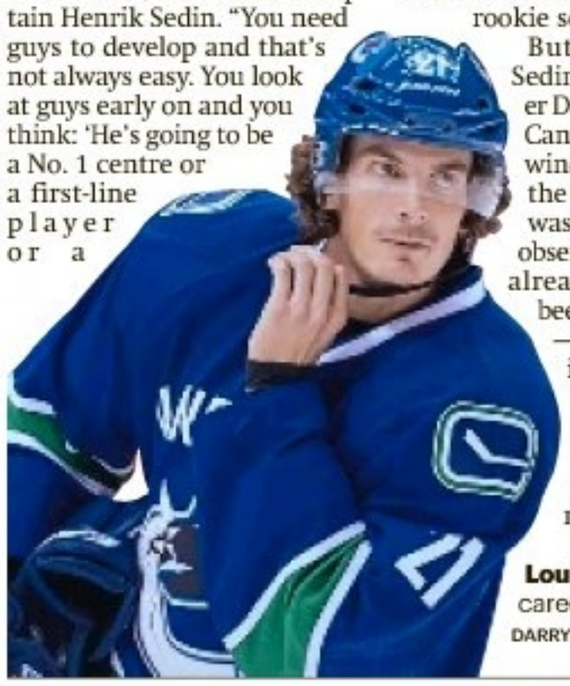
"They had some injuries to some key guys last season," said the 31-year-old. "Everyone is fresh and healthy right now and ready to go."

Alexander Edler, who also missed a big chunk of last season because of injury, will anchor the No. 1 defence pairing with Christopher Tanev, while Horvat and Sutter will centre the second and third lines behind the Sedins.

"We're here to win," said Sutter. "There won't be any excuses for what happened last year."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Daniel and Henrik Sedin remain the faces of the Canucks at age 36. GETTY IMAGES FILE



Loui Eriksson has scored 212 goals over his NHL career, including 30 last season with the Bruins.
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL IN BRIEF

Concussion forces Crosby to sit out

Pittsburgh superstar Sidney Crosby has been diagnosed with another concussion just days before an NHL season in which the Penguins are expected to make a strong run at repeating as Stanley Cup champion.

Coach Mike Sullivan told reporters that Crosby was concussed at practice Friday and said there is no timing for the return of the two-time Stanley Cup champion and the reigning playoff MVP who led Team Canada to a World Cup of Hockey title two weeks ago.

Pittsburgh made the announcement Monday as it prepared for its regular-season opener Thursday night at home against Washington.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaudreau scores six-year extension with Flames

Forward Johnny Gaudreau has a new contract in time to start the NHL regular season.

Johnny Gaudreau
GETTY IMAGES

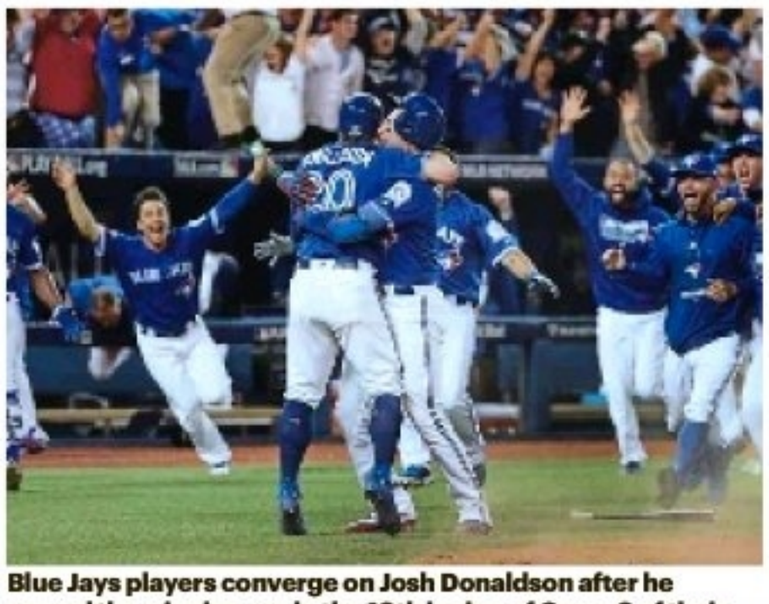
The Calgary Flames and Gaudreau agreed to a six-year contract extension on Monday worth $40.5 million US — an annual average of $6.75 million.

The 23-year-old led the Flames with 78 points last season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jays earn welcome rest

MLB PLAYOFFS

Suddenly hot Canadian club begins ALCS on Friday



Blue Jays players converge on Josh Donaldson after he scored the winning run in the 10th inning of Game 3 of their ALDS against the Rangers on Sunday night at Rogers Centre.
RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

September was a month the Toronto Blue Jays would like to forget. If they keep up their current level of play, October could very well be a month they remember.

The Blue Jays defeated Texas 7-6 on Sunday night to eliminate the Rangers from the post-season. The victory gave Toronto a welcome break before the start of the American League Championship Series on Friday.

After going just 11-16 last month, Toronto is a perfect 6-0 in October after a pair of critical regular-season wins in Boston, a wild-card victory over Baltimore and a three-game sweep of Texas.

"We turned the page on September," said Blue Jays manager John Gibbons. "It wasn't necessarily a good month for us but now we're in October. So that's sometimes the way the game works too — month to month."

Toronto's offence is a big reason why the team has moved on to baseball's final four.

The Blue Jays have outscored (27-12) and out-homered (10-3) the opposition in the playoffs. Edwin Encarnacion has led the way with three homers in four post-season games.

In the other AL Division Series, Cleveland completed a sweep of its own by beating Boston 4-3 on Monday night. The Indians will host the Jays for the first two games of the ALCS.

"What happened in September doesn't matter," said Blue Jays slugger Jose Bautista. "We made it to the playoffs. We made it to the League Championship Series and that's the only thing that matters. We're doing our job."

Second baseman Devon Travis is nursing a bone bruise in his right knee and will welcome a few days off. Toronto management believes Travis is close to being able to play and that he had his "best day" on Monday.

"Devon, every day is better," Blue Jays general manager Ross Atkins said in a conference call. "We are more optimistic today at 6 p.m. than we were at 5 p.m. It's not definite that he'll be playable but we feel very good about it."

The Toronto bullpen, which has been worked hard in recent weeks, could also use the break.

"Some people like to say a couple of days off might throw our timing off, I really don't believe in that," said Blue Jays catcher Russell Martin. "At this point in the year a couple days off can do wonders. So for our bullpen, our pitching, get everybody's arms fresh. And the same thing for guys who are banged up.

"A couple of days can go a long way in this game it seems like."

Two key Toronto pitchers remain out. Left-hander Francisco Liriano suffered a mild concussion last Friday and can return to the roster once he goes through Major League Baseball's seven-day concussion protocol.

There is no timeline for the potential return of right-handed reliever Joaquin Benoit, who is making progress as he recovers from a torn calf muscle.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB PLAYOFFS

Indians sweep up to spoil Ortiz swan song

MONDAY in Boston

4	3
INDIANS	RED SOX

Cleveland closer Cody Allen hung on in the last two innings, and the Indians beat the Boston Red Sox 4-3 Monday night to complete a three-game sweep of their AL Division Series.

Red Sox slugger David Ortiz walked in the final plate appearance of his major league career but could only watch from the dugout when Travis Shaw hit a game-ending flyout with a pair of runners on.

Rookie Tyler Naquin delivered a two-run single and Josh Tomlin pitched five strong innings for Cleveland, which reached the AL Championship Series for the first time since 2007 and opens against Toronto at home on Friday.

Cleveland went 4-3 this year against the wild-card Blue Jays, who swept AL West champion Texas to reach the ALCS for the second straight year.

The Indians had not won a playoff series in nine years, when they beat the New York Yankees and then wasted a 3-1 lead over the Red Sox in the ALCS. Perhaps inspired by the Cleveland Cavaliers NBA title — the city's first pro sports championship since 1964 — there would be no blowing this lead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Nationals 2-1 ahead in series
Anthony Rendon and Jayson Werth homered, and the Washington Nationals moved within one victory of winning a post-season series for the first time, beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-3 Monday for a 2-1 lead in their best-of-five NL playoff.

Four relievers combined for 4 2/3 shutout innings, putting the Nationals in position to wrap up the NL DS on Tuesday at Dodgers stadium. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bradford helping Vikings conquer

After stepping up with 14 receiving TDs last season, Doug Baldwin is stepping up in the community. GETTY IMAGES

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Baldwin eyes reform in police training

Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Doug Baldwin said Monday that he's had substantive talks with members of law enforcement and Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson after Baldwin's call for a review of training tactics used by police.

Baldwin first spoke out three weeks ago following police shootings in Charlotte, N.C., and Tulsa, Okla. At that time, Baldwin called for all 50 state attorneys general to review "policies and training policies for police and law enforcement to eliminate militaristic cultures while putting a higher emphasis on de-escalation tactics and crisis management measures."

> **We're really just trying to find solutions.**
> Doug Baldwin

Since then, Baldwin has had talks with law enforcement in the Seattle area in the effort to gather information that he hopes can change how police officers are trained.

"We're being very strategic with the people that we meet with," Baldwin said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCCER

FIFA faces legal action over 'slavery' in Qatar

A Dutch labour union said Monday it will launch legal action against FIFA if soccer's governing body does not step in to halt what it called "modern slavery" in the construction of venues for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Dutch union FNV, which is taking legal action along with 21-year-old Bangladeshi worker Nadim Shariful Alam, said it wants "FIFA to accept its responsibility and end exploitation of workers" in construction work ahead of the tournament.

The union is the latest organization to call for action against poor working conditions for labourers since Qatar was awarded the hosting rights. The gas-rich emirate is preparing eight new and renovated stadiums for the 2022 tournament.

Qatar is relying heavily on workers from south Asia who are tied to the "kafala" system of sponsorship common in Gulf nations, which critics say exposes migrants to exploitation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Belgium nets quickest goal

Belgium scored the fastest goal in World Cup qualifying history when Christian Benteke slotted home against Gibraltar after only seven seconds Monday.

The previous record since detailed timing was kept was held by San Marino's Davide Gualtieri, who needed 8 seconds to score the opener against England in a 1993 qualifier.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Time off for ill Broncos coach

Broncos GM John Elway says doctors have ordered coach Gary Kubiak to take a week off after experiencing a migraine and that special teams co-ordinator Joe DeCamillis will serve as interim coach Thursday night in San Diego.

Kubiak was lethargic following Denver's 23-16 loss to Atlanta on Sunday night and was hospitalized overnight after the game.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sam Bradford has the league's second-best QB rating (109.8) through four games with the Vikings. ADAM BETTCHER/GETTY IMAGES

NFL

Minnesota's emergency QB trade keeping them perfect

Sam Bradford has started all of four games for Minnesota.

The Vikings aren't yet one-third of the way through their schedule. The early return on that expensive emergency trade the Vikings made for Bradford, though, could not have been better. They're the only undefeated team remaining in the NFL, and Bradford has the second-best passer rating in the league (109.8) among quarterbacks with a qualifying amount of attempts.

"Obviously, it's a great start," said Bradford, who was fetched from Philadelphia for a first-round draft pick in 2017 and a conditional selection in 2018 that'll be in the second, third or fourth round. "You couldn't ask for anything more than being 5-0 going into your bye week."

Waiting for the Vikings after the welcomed break is a road game on Oct. 23 against those Eagles (3-1), who haven't missed Bradford one bit because of the success of rookie Carson Wentz.

Coach Mike Zimmer cracked a couple of smiles after Minnesota's 31-13 victory over Houston on Sunday, but he'll soon enter his usual state of anxiety about the upcoming opponent and how to slow its offence.

"Like Coach Zimmer said after the game, it's still a lot of work this team needs to do," Bradford said.

"We're not satisfied. It's early in the year, and we haven't accomplished anything yet."

No, but the Vikings have at least mastered the art of resilience, after losing quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, running back Adrian Peterson, left tackle Matt Kalil and now right tackle Andre Smith, all perhaps for the rest of the season.

Bridgewater's colossal injury to his left knee triggered the deal for Bradford eight days before the opener, and the 28-year-old former No. 1 overall draft pick has gelled with his new teammates and picked up offensive co-ordinator Norv Turner's playbook as if he's been in purple his whole pro career.

"The one thing about Sam is that he will communicate the things that he likes to do," Zimmer said.

"If we have a play in the game plan that he doesn't like, he's going to tell Norv, and we get rid of the play. We try to do things that he's comfortable with, even though it's been a short period of time."

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RECIPE Red Lentil Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Even when you think your cupboards are bare you probably have most of the ingredients to make this simple, delicious and healthy soup.

Ready in 15 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 1 cup red lentils
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- good squeeze of lemon juice

Directions

1. Sauté the vegetables in olive oil until they soften.

2. Add the lentils and the stock and bring to a simmer.

3. Cook for about 15 minutes stirring every once in a while.

4. Add lemon juice and salt and pepper to taste.

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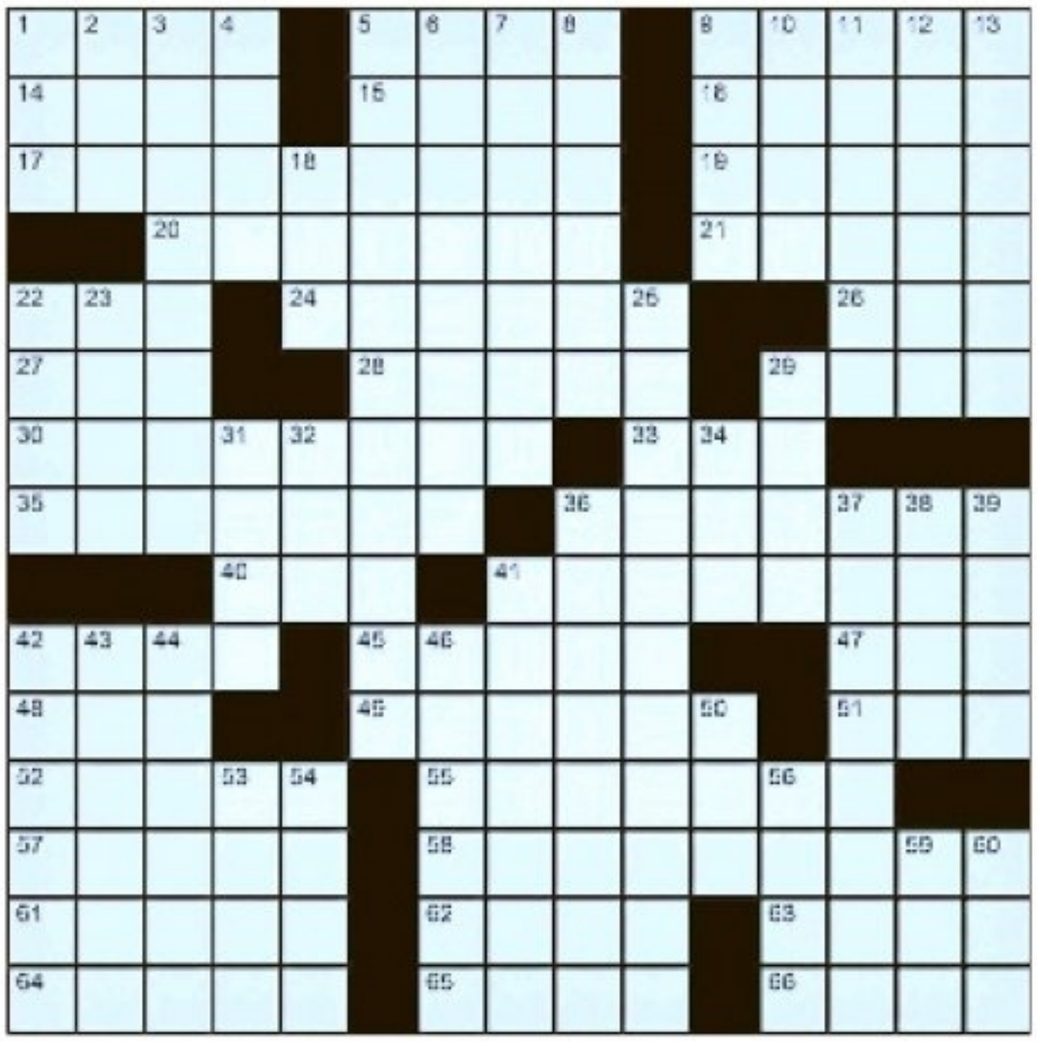
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Plug-less computer network connection
5. Canadian actor Mr. Cronyn
9. Miss __ Lenya of Bobby Darin hit "Mack the Knife"
14. 'Switch' ender
15. "What's __ for me?"
16. Scarlett's home's namesakes
17. Thoroughfare in downtown Hamilton, __ __. __
19. Scarlett's love
20. Spectator
21. __ message (Transmitted an e-mail, perhaps)
22. Entrepreneur's deg.
24. Ms. Burgess (Pro dancer who is #5-Down's partner on "Dancing with the Stars")
26. Foldaway cottage bed
27. __ B (Two basic options)
28. Angler's basket
29. If the fits ...what's missing?
30. Sang in The Alps
33. Reckon in Reno
35. Bland
36. 'Top line' in accounting
40. Bounced cheque acronym
41. "An American __ in London" (1981)
42. Succeeds
45. Impose upon
47. Fedora, for one
48. Ripen
49. Charm
51. Pals to CMs
52. __ out (Makes it with good fortune)
55. Wheeled serving table: 2 wds.
57. Journalist Ms. Couric
58. Implied/suggested
61. Matrikin
62. Convene
63. Bone dry
64. More pink, as steak
65. Country singer Mr. Arnold
66. Tiny teacher

DOWN
1. Spider's architecture
2. George Gershwin's brother
3. Some hockey players
4. Smidgen
5. As per #24-Across... James __ (IndyCar driver from Oakville, Ontario who is on the current season of "Dancing with the Stars")
6. Singular, as per ownership
7. Like a picture frame's corner joints
8. Forever, to a poet
9. Items in envelopes, for short
10. Dam of South Dakota
11. WWI fortification ditch
12. "Fantasy Island" character
13. Mansion's setting
18. Extra sports periods to break ties, briefly
22. Permission requester's opener...: 2 wds.
23. Business blessing
25. Cold Lake or Airdrie, for example: 2 wds.
29. Slow-cooked meal
31. One, in Munich
32. CDs predecessors
34. Adam and __
36. Ushered the concert-goers closer to the stage, say
37. Baseball pitcher's dream game
38. __ Bator (Mongolia's capital)
39. Terrestrial stage newts
41. Extended, such as a highway with additional lanes
42. Promenading person
43. Large lizard
44. Drink of the gods
46. Prompt: 2 wds.
50. St. Louis footballer
53. Up-in-the-sky toy
54. Clairvoyant
56. Carpentry tool
59. Leandro's operatic beloved
60. Dict. entry

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Someone close to you is enthusiastic today! Enjoy conversations with partners and close friends, and don't hesitate to make big plans.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
It's easy to get the cooperation of others at work today, because people are in a good mood. Work-related travel also is likely

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Relations with children are upbeat and positive today. This also is a great day for romantic outings, the arts and anything to do with sports.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You will enjoy making home improvements today or exploring real-estate opportunities. You're starting to feel hopeful about improving your home or getting a better one.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Today you are aware of the power of positive thinking. You feel hopeful about your future and look forward to whatever you think is possible. Dream big!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is an excellent day for business and commerce. Dealings with foreign interests are likely. Don't be afraid to stretch a little and take a chance.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today you see the larger view of things, which allows you to make plans with foresight and wisdom. It's a particularly good day for business and finance.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You are entertaining big dreams today, and it feels good. Double-check all details with work you are involved with, because big dreams sometimes cause you to overlook little things.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You can organize the efforts of others today, because people are willing to follow your suggestions. Your positive frame of mind is what encourages people.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This is an excellent day to talk to bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs. Not only are people receptive to what you have to say, they are willing to entertain ambitious suggestions.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Travel plans look exciting! This is an excellent day to discuss lofty topics like philosophy, religion and politicss. This also is a good day to study anything and explore topics at school.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
This is an excellent day to decide how to share something or to discuss an inheritance. Whatever happens, you will be sure to get your fair share.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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	6				5			
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						9	7	1
							5	2

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8	5	6	9	4	7	3	2	1
9	1	2	7	3	8	6	5	4
4	7	5	6	2	9	8	1	3
3	6	8	1	5	4	2	7	9
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5	3	9	4	1	2	7	6	8
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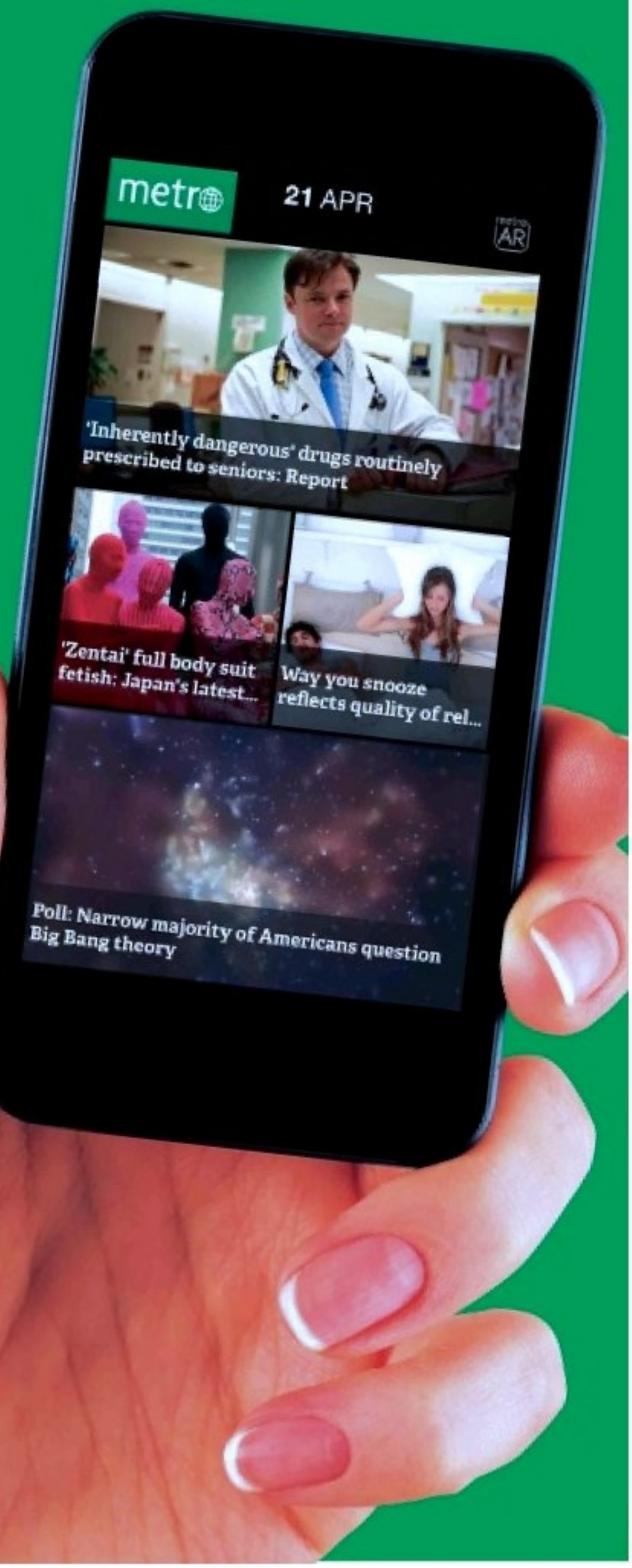

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